

REMARKS

I. PRELIMINARY REMARKS

Claims 1, 5, 11, 12, 15, 16 and 21 have been amended. Claim 17 has been canceled. Claims 27-29 have been added. Claims 1-16 and 18-29 remain in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

II. CLAIMS 1-10, 16 AND 18-26

A. The Rejections

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 10, 16, 20, 21, 22 and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by the U.S. Patent No. 6,374,148 to Dharmarajan ("the Dharmarajan patent"). Claim 2 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over the combined teachings of the Dharmarajan patent and U.S. Patent No. 6,263,381 to Freadman ("the Freadman patent"). Claims 5, 9, 23 and 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over the combined teachings of the Dharmarajan patent and U.S. Patent No. 6,017,106 to Adams ("the Adams patent"). Claims 8, 17 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over the combined teachings of the Dharmarajan patent and U.S. Patent No. 6,181,550 to Kim ("the Kim patent"). Claim 19 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over the combined teachings of the Dharmarajan patent and U.S. Patent No. 6,377,534 to Chuang ("the Chuang patent"). Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over the combined teachings of the Dharmarajan patent, the Adams patent and U.S. Patent No. 6,569,101 to Quistgaard ("the Quistgaard patent"). Claim 26 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over the combined teachings of the Dharmarajan patent, the Adams patent and the Kim patent.

The rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 are respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended above. Reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested.

B. The Dharmarajan Patent

The Dharmarajan patent is directed to an audio system that includes a portable PC 10' and a docking station 20'. The docking station 20', which appears to include a CD or DVD drive 88, is configured to be connected to a docking connector 30' on the PC 10'. The docking station 20' may also be connected to external speakers, external audio inputs by way of an external audio interface 48, and video sources by way of an in-line jack.

C. Discussion Concerning Claims 1-4 and 7-10

Independent claim 1 calls for a combination of elements including "a portable computer including a keyboard, a display, a housing, a computer electrical connector and a computer mechanical connector" and "a recorded media storage and playback device including a housing defining an exterior, a speaker, ***a user-manipulatable playback control element associated with the exterior of the housing***, a storage and playback device electrical connector configured to mate with the computer electrical connector and a storage and playback device mechanical connector configured to mate with the computer mechanical connector."

The cited references fail to teach or suggest such a combination. The Dharmarajan docking station 20' does not, for example, include a "user-manipulatable playback control element." In fact, there is nothing in the Dharmarajan patent which even remotely suggests that any playback control functions are controlled by the user at the docking station 20'. To the contrary, all playback control functions appear to be controlled by the PC 10' or by the external devices that may be connected to the docking station 20'.

As the Dharmarajan patent fails to teach or suggest each and every element of the combination recited in independent claim 1, applicant respectfully submits that

claims 1, 3, 4, 7 and 10 are patentable thereover and that the rejection of claims 1, 3, 4, 7 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 should be withdrawn.

Turning to the rejections of claims 2, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103, applicant respectfully submits that the Freadman, Kim and Adams patents fail to remedy the aforementioned deficiencies in the Dharmarajan patent with respect to independent claim 1. As such, applicant respectfully submits that claims 2, 8 and 9 are respectively patentable over the proposed Dharmarajan/Freadman, Dharmarajan/Kim and Dharmarajan/Adams combinations and that the rejections of claims 2, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 should also be withdrawn.

D. Discussion Concerning Claims 5 and 6

Independent claim 5 calls for a combination of elements including “a portable computer including a keyboard, a display, a housing with a handle, **a computer electrical connector on the handle and a computer mechanical connector on the handle**” and “a recorded media storage and playback device including a housing, a speaker, a storage and playback device electrical connector configured to mate with the computer electrical connector and a storage and playback device mechanical connector configured to mate with the computer mechanical connector.” The cited references fail to teach or suggest such a combination.

For example, the Dharmarajan patent fails to even teach or suggest a handle, let alone electrical and mechanical connectors on a handle. The Adams patent discloses a removable handle that may attached to a computer housing or substituted for a removable device such as a drive. In contrast to the claimed combination, however, there is no electrical connector on the added Adams handle. Nor do the Dharmarajan and Adams patents themselves provide any motivation whatsoever to mechanically or electrically connect the Dharmarajan docking station 20' to the handle, which would be required under the interpretation of the claims presented in the Office Action.

Accordingly, even assuming *arguendo* that there would have been a reason to combine the Dharmarajan and Adams patents in the manner proposed in the Office Action, the combined teachings would not have resulted in the invention defined by

independent claim 5. Applicant respectfully submits, therefore, that the rejection of independent claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 should be withdrawn.

Turning to the rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103, applicant respectfully submits that the Quistgaard patent, which has been cited for a purported speaker teaching, fails to remedy the aforementioned deficiencies in the Dharmarajan and Adams patents with respect to independent claim 5. As such, applicant respectfully submits that claim 6 is patentable over the proposed Dharmarajan/Adams/Quistgaard combination and that the rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 should also be withdrawn.

E. Claims 16 and 18-20

Independent claim 16 is directed to a portable recorded media storage and playback device for use with a portable computer. The portable recorded media storage and playback device comprises "a housing," "a pair of speakers," and "a pair of slidable arms on which the speakers are respectively mounted, the slidable arms being movable between respective storage positions substantially within the housing and respective use positions substantially outside the housing." The claim also indicates that ***"the housing, pair of speakers and slidable arms together being sized, shaped and arranged to be worn on a user's head with the speakers facing respective ears when the arms are in the use positions."***

The cited references fail to teach or suggest such a combination. For example, the Dharmarajan docking station and speaker arrangement simply is not "sized, shaped and arranged to be worn on a user's head."

As the Dharmarajan patent fails to teach or suggest each and every element of the combination recited in independent claim 16, applicant respectfully submits that claims 16 and 20 are patentable thereover and that the rejection of claims 16 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 should be withdrawn.

Turning to the rejections of claims 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103, applicant respectfully submits that the Kim and Chuang patents fail to remedy the aforementioned deficiencies in the Dharmarajan patent with respect to independent claim 16. For example, there is nothing in the Kim and Chuang patents that would

even remotely suggest reconfiguring the Dharmarajan docking station such that it could be worn on a user's head. As such, applicant respectfully submits that claims 18 and 19 are respectively patentable over the proposed Dharmarajan/Kim and Dharmarajan/Chuang combinations and that the rejections of claims 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 should also be withdrawn.

F. Claims 21-25

Independent claim 21 calls for a combination of elements including "a portable computer including a housing defining a front end that faces in a forward direction and a rear end, a keyboard, a display that faces in the forward direction, and a **computer electrical connector that faces in the forward direction**" and "a recorded media storage and playback device including a housing, a speaker and a media storage and playback device electrical connector." Claim 21 also indicates that "the computer electrical connector that faces in the forward direction will mate with the media storage and playback device electrical connector."

The cited references fail to teach or suggest such a combination. For example, in the laptop and docking station arrangement illustrated in Figure 1 of the Dharmarajan patent, external connectors are provided on the **back** of the portable PC 10 for making electrical connection with connectors 16 on the docking station 20. There is nothing in the Dharmarajan patent which indicates that the respective configurations of portable PC 10' and docking station 20' are any different. Nor would there be any reason to mount a docking station, such as the Dharmarajan docking stations 20 and 20', on the front end of a portable computer, such as the Dharmarajan PCs 10 and 10'.

As the Dharmarajan patent fails to teach or suggest each and every element of the combination recited in independent claim 21, applicant respectfully submits that claims 21, 22 and 25 are patentable thereover and that the rejection of claims 21, 22 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 should be withdrawn.

Turning to the rejection of claims 23 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103, applicant respectfully submits that the Adams patent fails to remedy the aforementioned deficiencies in the Dharmarajan patent with respect to independent claim 21. For

example, there is nothing in the Adams patent that would even remotely suggest reconfiguring the Dharmarajan portable PC and docking station arrangement such that the docking station would be mounted on the front end of the PC. As such, applicant respectfully submits that claims 23 and 24 are patentable over the proposed Dharmarajan/Adams combination and that the rejection of claims 23 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 should also be withdrawn.

G. Claim 26

Independent claim 26 calls for a combination of elements including, *inter alia*, “a portable computer including a main housing having a handle ... a computer electrical connector mounted on the handle and a computer latch device mounted on the handle” and “a recorded media storage and playback device including ... a storage and playback device electrical connector configured to mate with the computer electrical connector and a housing aperture configured to mate with the computer latch device.”

The cited references fail to teach or suggest such a combination. For example, the Dharmarajan patent does not teach or suggest the use of a handle, let alone an electrical connector mounted on the handle and/or a latch device mounted on a handle. The Adams patent discloses removable handle that may attached to a computer housing or substituted for a removable device such as a drive. There is no electrical connector mounted on the Adams computer handle, as called for in the claimed combination. The Adams patent also fails to teach or suggest the use of a computer handle with a latch that is configured to mate with a latch on a recorded media storage and playback device. The Adams handle is only configured to mate with the associated portable computer.

The Kim patent, which has been cited for its purported teachings concerning speakers, fails to remedies the above-identified deficiencies in the Dharmarajan and Adams patents.

Accordingly, even when combined in the hindsight manner proposed in the Office Action, the Dharmarajan, Adams and Kim patents fail to produce the

combination of elements called for in independent claim 26. The rejection of claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is, therefore, improper and should be withdrawn.

III. CLAIMS 11-15

A. The Rejections

Claims 11 and 13-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by the U.S. Patent No. 5,293,300 to Leung ("the Leung patent"). Claim 12 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over the combined teachings of the Leung patent and the Freadman patent. The rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 are respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended above. Reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested.

B. Discussion

Independent claim 11 is directed to a portable computer that comprises "a main housing," "a keyboard and a display associated with the main housing" and "**a handle** associated with the main housing and **including a data connector** and a mechanical connector."

The cited references fail to teach or suggest such a combination. The Leung patent discloses a portable computer with a battery carrying handle. In contrast to the claimed combination, however, the Leung patent does not include a **data** connector.

As the Leung patent fails to teach or suggest each and every element of the combination recited in independent claim 11, applicant respectfully submits that claims 11 and 13-15 are patentable thereover and that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 should be withdrawn.

Turning to the rejection of claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103, applicant respectfully submits that the Freadman patent fails to remedy the aforementioned deficiencies in the Leung patent. For example, nothing in the Freadman patent even remotely suggests placing a data connector on the computer handle disclosed in the

Leung patent. As such, the rejection of claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 should also be withdrawn.

IV. NEWLY PRESENTED CLAIMS 27-29

Newly presented claims 27-29 depend from independent claim 1 and, therefore, are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

V. CLOSING REMARKS

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the application are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested. Allowance of the claims at an early date is courteously solicited.

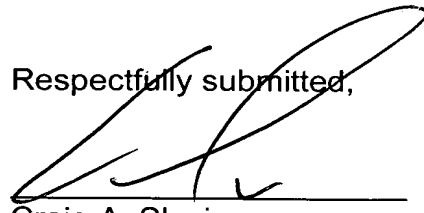
If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call applicant's undersigned representative at (310) 563-1458 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-2025. Should such fees be associated with an extension of time, applicant respectfully requests that this paper be considered a petition therefor.

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Date

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Respectfully submitted,



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